

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TEHRAN 11105 140602Z

15

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 DODE-00 L-03 MC-02 ACDA-05 AID-05 OMB-01 /060 W

----- 003494

R 140511Z NOV 75

FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4338

INFO AMEMBASSY DACCA

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEHRAN 11105

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MASS, BG

SUBJ: CONVERSTATION WITH AMBASSADOR OF BANGLADESH

1. IN CALL ON ME NOVEMBER 13, AMBASSADOR OF BANGLADESH DOHA OPENED CONVERSATION BY SAYING THAT WHILE READING DACCA NEWSPAPERS WHICH HAD JUST ARRIVED IN FIRST POUCH IN TWO WEEKS HE HAD BEEN STRUCK BY FACT THAT NO ONE IN CURRENT LEADERSHIP OF BANGLADESH HAS ANY ADMINISTRATIVE OR MANAGERIAL EXPERIENCE AT ALL. HOWEVER LOYAL THEY MAY ALL BE, THEY DO NOT HAVE CAPACITY TO LEAD. EVEN MILITARY OFFICERS IN CABINET, ALTHOUGH THEY ARE GOOD MEN, DO NOT HAVE USUAL MILITARY MARTIAL LAW EXPERIENCE BECAUSE THEY ARE BENGALIS WHO WERE KEPT OUT OF SUCH JOBS IN PAK AKLY. SAYEM HIMSELF "NEVER ADMINISTERED SO MUCH AS A PEANUT STAND." HE WAS SUDDENLY PROMOTED TO SUPREME COURT FROM DISTRICT COURT IN 1972 AFTER BEING A PLAIN LAWYER MOST OF HIS LIFE.

2. DOH THEN TURNED TO WHAT WAS CLEARLY THE POINT OF HIS CALL. HE SAID ARMY WAS ONLY ELEMENT ABLE TO MAINTAIN STABILITY OFCOUNTRY UNDER PRESENT CONDITIONS. IT SEEMS TO BE IN FAIR STATE OF ORDER AND DISCIPLINE NOW THAT DISSIDENT OFFICERS HAVE FLED OR BEEN KELLED. ARMY IS WELL TRAINED BUT BADLY ARMED, DOHA SAID, AND DOES NOT HAVE MEANS TO DO ITS JOB. UNLESS IT IS ABLE TO ACQUIRE ADEQUATE ARMS IT IS LIKELY TO BECOME FORCE FOR INSTABILITY, AND NO RESPONSIBLE MEMBER OF INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY COULD WANT THAT. HE
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URGED THAT U.S. GIVE SERIOUS CONSIDERATION TO PROVIDING ARMY

WITH NECESSARY WEAPONS.

3. COMMENT: IT IS UNCLEAR TO ME WHETHER DOHA WAS SPEAKING
UNDER INSTRUCTIONS OR ON HIS OWN INITIATIVE BUT I AM
REPORTING THE CONVERSATION FOR WHATEVER IT MAY BE WORTH.
THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT HE WAS TRANSMITTING A MESSAGE.
HE SPECIFICALLY ASKED IF I UNDERSTOOD WHAT HE WAS SUGGESTING.
HELMS

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL STABILITY, ARMS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 NOV 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: KelleyW0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975TEHRAN11105
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750396-0667
From: TEHRAN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751144/aaaabnkw.tel
Line Count: 69
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: KelleyW0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04 AUG 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <04 AUG 2003 by izenbei0>; APPROVED <24 NOV 2003 by KelleyW0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CONVERSTATION WITH AMBASSADOR OF BANGLADESH
TAGS: PFOR, MASS, BG, US, (DOHA)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006